

Solar Schools Revisions to the December 2003 Emerging Renewables Program (ERP) Guidebook

The following revisions to the Solar Schools Program will be incorporated into the text of the ERP Guidebook when the Energy Commission revises the ERP Guidebook in June, 2004. These revisions were approved by the Energy Commission at its May 19, 2004 Business Meeting.

A. Special Funding for Public Schools

Pursuant to Interagency Agreement No. R500-02-006, amended February 4, 2004, the Energy Commission and the California Power Authority have established the Solar Schools Program to provide a higher level of funding for public and charter schools to encourage the installation of photovoltaic generating systems at more school sites. In 2002, the Energy Commission was unable to secure budget authority from the Department of Finance to expend the funds from the Attorney General's Alternative Energy Retrofit Account (AGAERA). The additional funds for the Solar Schools Program total \$2.25 million and are now available from the AGAERA. Fifteen schools were granted preliminary reservations in 2002 that could not be funded under the Solar Schools Program. These districts will be given preference until June 21, 2004 to reapply to this program for the sites for which they originally applied.

Installations of photovoltaic systems at school sites totaling less than 30 kilowatts in size per school district may qualify for additional funding from the AGAERA equal to the standard rebate offered to other ERP applicants for photovoltaic systems. If the standard rebate available is \$3.20 per watt, the rebate available for an eligible public school would be \$6.40 per watt. However, the total funding incentive (Energy Commission plus AGAERA funds) may not exceed the total installed system cost. To further assist schools, any costs above the total rebate incentive may be financed through a loan from the Energy Commission's Energy Efficiency Financing Program or through a loan from another public agency. Such loans will not be considered in adjusting the ERP rebate level available for the school. Schools approved for the additional incentives will be given 18 month reservations.

1. Requirements for the Solar Schools Program

To be eligible, schools must show they meet all eligibility requirements for the standard rebate and demonstrate they meet the following additional criteria:

- The public school provides, or will provide, instruction for any grade between kindergarten through 12th grade

- The school has already installed high efficiency fluorescent lighting (T8 lamps and electronic ballasts) in at least 80% of classrooms or has implemented other energy efficient measures with equivalent or greater energy savings as determined by the Energy Commission
- The school agrees to establish a curriculum tie-in plan to educate students on the benefits of solar energy and energy conservation

Schools that do not meet the requirements of the Solar Schools Program may still qualify for the standard rebate offered. Schools with an existing standard rebate reservation may reapply for the higher rebate if the system has not been completed. Schools that were granted preliminary reservations in 2002 may reapply for the higher rebate even if the system has been completed. To reapply, submit a completed preliminary reservation request form and a new CEC 1038-R1 form.

2. How to Apply to the Solar Schools Program

To obtain the full reservation for the additional rebate incentive, participating school districts must submit a complete standard application (CEC 1038-R1 and supporting documents) and provide the following additional information for each school where a system is planned:

Solar Schools Reservation Form - Complete the Solar Schools Reservation Request Form identifying the planned sites for installation.

Proof of Energy Efficiency - Check the box on the Solar Schools Reservation request form indicating that the energy efficient lighting measures already installed comply with the high efficiency lighting requirement (T8 lamps and electronic ballasts) or provide additional documentation to show that other energy efficient measures with equivalent or greater energy savings have been installed. For further information on energy efficiency, please contact the Energy Commission at (916) 654-3838.

School Board Resolution – Provide a signed board resolution clearly indicating all of the following:

- Intent to purchase and install an eligible photovoltaic system at the specified site(s)
- Support to operate and maintain the system for its useful life
- School commitment to establish a curriculum tie-in plan to educate students on the benefits of solar energy and energy conservation

The forms and attachments may be faxed to (916) 653-2543 or be mailed to:

ERP Schools
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-45
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Preliminary Reservation Option

If the funding is not entirely reserved by applicants meeting all of the above criteria, a preliminary reservation may be given to school districts that are initially able to provide all of the following information, but have not yet signed a system purchase and installation agreement(s):

- Solar Schools Reservation Form
- Proof of meeting the energy efficiency criteria
- Board resolution
- Electric utility bill for each school

The preliminary reservation would allow the school district four months to solicit bids and contract for a system purchase and to complete their application.

To secure the full reservation for a participating school, the reservation request form (CEC 1038-R1) must be submitted before expiration of the preliminary reservation. The required attachment to the completed R1 form is a copy of the agreement(s) to purchase and install the specified system. Preference will be given to those applicants meeting the full reservation criteria.

Payment Requests and Forms

To request the rebate payment once the system is installed, the applicant must submit the payment claim form (CEC 1038-R2) with the same attachments required for any other participant in the Emerging Renewables Program.

Blank forms for requesting a reservation or filing for payment can be obtained by calling the Energy Commission call center at 1-800-555-7794 or from the Energy Commission web site at:

<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/index.html>

No funds will be reserved until all the information and documentation required for the preliminary reservation request and/or standard reservation request is received by the Energy Commission. Applications will not be processed if they are not complete and legible.